

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 ISO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:RBMCMULLEN

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:GTWOHIE

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O 150336Z DEC 73 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 245509

TOSEC 185 TOTAS 10

FOLLOWING REPEAT OTTAWA 3037 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN
BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN LONDON LUXEMBOURG THE HAGUE
PARIS ROME TOKYO OECD PARIS EC BRUSSELS 14 DEC

QUOTE

UNCLAS OTTAWA 3037

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA

SUBJECT: INITIAL CANADIAN REACTION TO SECRETARY'S ENERGY ACTION
GROUP PROPOSAL

POCHED ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA AS INFO

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

1. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER SHARP, IN RESPONSE
MEDIA QUESTIONING DECEMBER 13, CHARACTERIZED
SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL AS MOST CONSTRUCTIVE AND STATED
THAT GOC PREPARED TO NOMINATE REPRESENTATIVE TO
ENERGY ACTION GROUP. SHARP SAID THAT GOC LOOKED
FORWARD TO CLOSER EXAMINATION OF PROPOSAL AND THAT
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ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WAS ONE AREA WHICH HOLDS

PARTICULAR ATTRACTION FOR MULTILATERAL ACTION.

2. ENERGY MINISTER MACDONALD REPORTEDLY TOLD PRESS THAT HE GENERALLY FAVORED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND THAT WITH REGARD TO ENERGY THE CANADIAN NUCLEAR REACTOR PROGRAM WAS AMONG THE WORLD'S BEST.

3. WHILE SHARP'S COMMENTS WERE CARRIED ON LATE CBC NEWS (RADIO) DECEMBER 13 THERE WAS NO REPEAT NO COVERAGE IN DECEMBER 14 MORNING OR AFTERNOON PRESS.

4. DECEMBER 13 OTTAWA JOURNAL HEADLINED SECRETARY'S INITIATIVE, "KISSINGER ASKS CANADA TO JOIN EFFORT COULD OPEN DOOR TO ALREADY-PROPOSED URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITIES IN CANADA AND PROVIDE IMPETUS TO CANADA'S ALREADY-SUCCESSFUL NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM. JOURNAL EDITORIAL OF DECEMBER 14, HOWEVER, CAUTIONS THAT MANY CANADIANS ARE "RIGHTLY SUSPICIOUS OF ANYTHING THAT MIGHT LEAD TO A TOTAL CONTINENTAL ENERGY POLICY" AND WARNS THAT CANADA'S ECONOMY "IS JUST TOO SMALL TO ABSORB THE DISTORTIONS THAT WOULD BE CAUSED BY TOO MUCH FOREIGN CAPITAL FLOWING IN TO HELP DEVELOP OUR ENERGY RESOURCES TOO QUICKLY." NEVERTHELESS, EDITORIAL FINDS PROPOSAL'S LOGIC "IMPOSSIBLE TO FAULT" AND CALLS FOR "A SINCERE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST" FOR THE MOMENT.

5. MONTREAL GAZETTE (DECEMBER 14) EDITORIALY STATES THAT "INDUSTRIAL NATIONS MUST RESPOND QUICKLY AND POSITIVELY TO THE KISSINGER INITIATIVE." EDITORIAL ALSO APPLAUDS FACT THAT PROPOSAL INVITES PARTICIPATION OF PRODUCING NATIONS AS WELL AS CONSUMERS. "SUCH AN APPROACH MINIMIZES CONFRONTATION WITH THE ARABS AND TENDS TO AVOID JOCKEYING TO GET IN THEIR GOOD GRACES."

JOHNSON UNQUOTE RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR ENERGY, PRESS COMMENTS, SPEECHES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE245509
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:RBMCMULLEN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731222/aaaaaqdd.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2001 by thomasv0>; APPROVED <23-Aug-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INITIAL CANADIAN REACTION TO SECRETARY'S ENERGY ACTION GROUP PROPOSAL
TAGS: ENRG, CA
To: AMMAN LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005